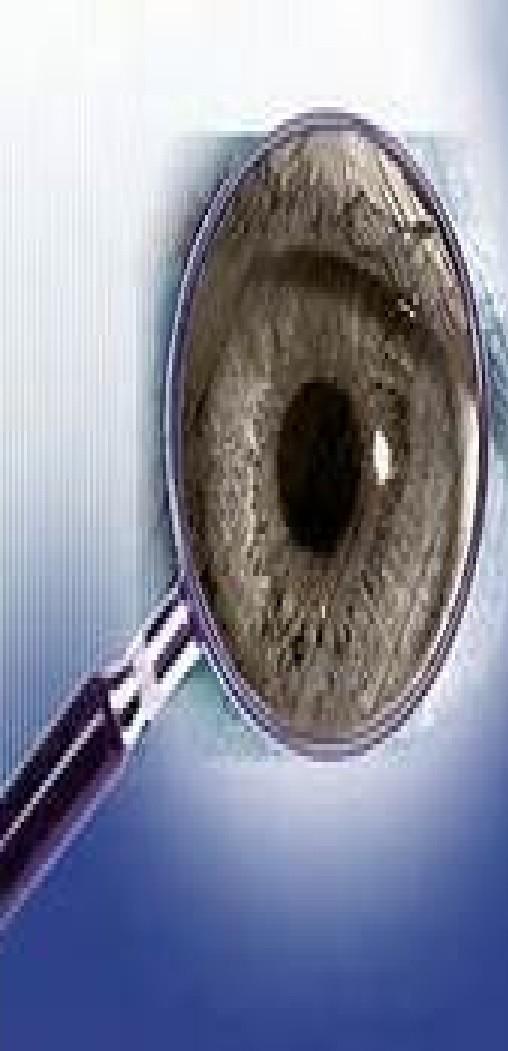


Forensic Photography For Child Protection



Core Competencies

- ▶ **Understand the value in collecting photographic evidence**
- ▶ **Understand the difference between forensic photography and normal use of pictures**
- ▶ **Be able to capture evidence clearly and document relevant injuries and scene characteristics**



What is Forensic Photography?

Forensic photography (also known as forensic imaging, legal photo-documentation, or crime scene photography) is the process of taking photos within any legal context.

For example; providing an accurate visual record of an injury to a child or of a child abuse or neglect scene. Photo's can reinforce the facts of the case.



What is Forensic Photography?

Forensic photographs are used in investigations and/or legal proceedings in court.

They are also kept in family case records and uploaded into the Illinois SACWIS system as directed by policy.

Photography

Why do we take photographs ?

- Serves as one manner of documentation, in addition to notes and diagrams.
- Provides a permanent visual record of the injury or scene.
- Serves as a “true and accurate representation” of the injury or scene during court proceedings.
 - Demonstrative evidence

Types of Evidence

- Testimonial Evidence (statements, confessions, etc.)
- Demonstrative Evidence (photographs, diagrams)
- Physical Evidence (physical clues that establish a connection between objects or aid in the reconstruction of an event)

Why Do I Need to Know?

Hey---Would you hand me that thing?

This thing?

No, the other thing. The one with the doohickies on the end.

Oh...You want the watchamacallit. Why didn't you say so?

- actual conversation between two human beings

You Have to Have Goals

This course will not teach you to be an expert in forensic photography, but it should help

1. You think critically about where to point the lens before you shoot the picture
2. Show you how to document your photos properly
3. Reinforce compliance with policy and procedure
4. Review SACWIS uploading for complete investigative records as well as annual photos of wards

You Have to Have Goals

The new camera tool
is capable of
producing better
quality digital images.
It is a smart tool, but
at the end of the day,
someone still has to
remember to press the
button, or it's just a
paperweight.

Anonymous

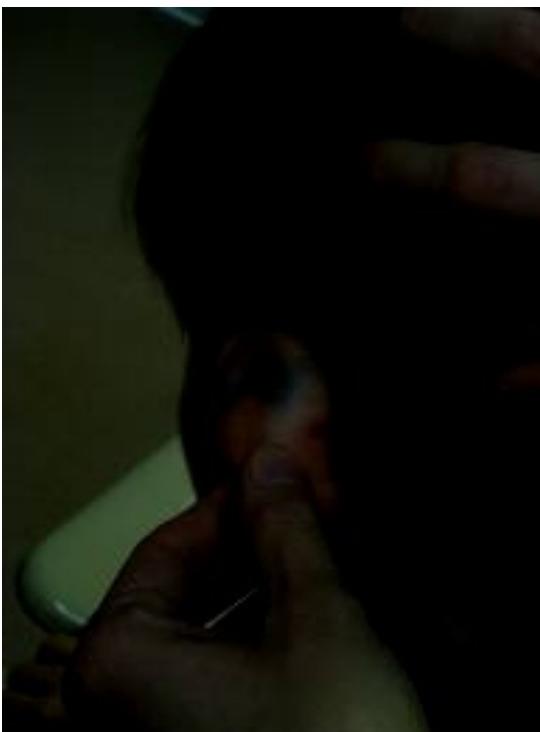


A Picture is Worth a 1000 Words.

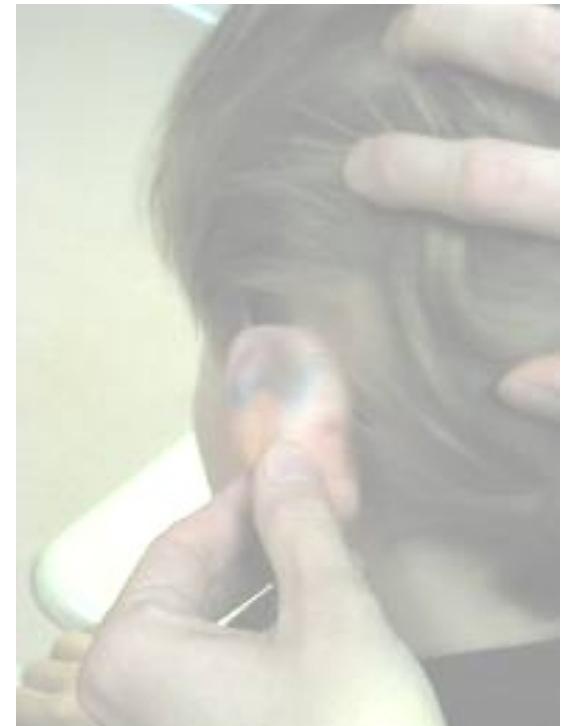
In the case of the investigation of a charge of child abuse, one picture may help you and your supervisor assess safety or it might determine the eventual case outcome.

However, remember that photographs are redundant documentation. They are completed in ADDITION to the CANTS 2A or CANTS 2B.

A Picture is Worth a 1000 Words.



Poor quality photographs of scenes and /or injuries can impede accurate assessments of the family's situation.



A Picture is Worth a 1000 Words.

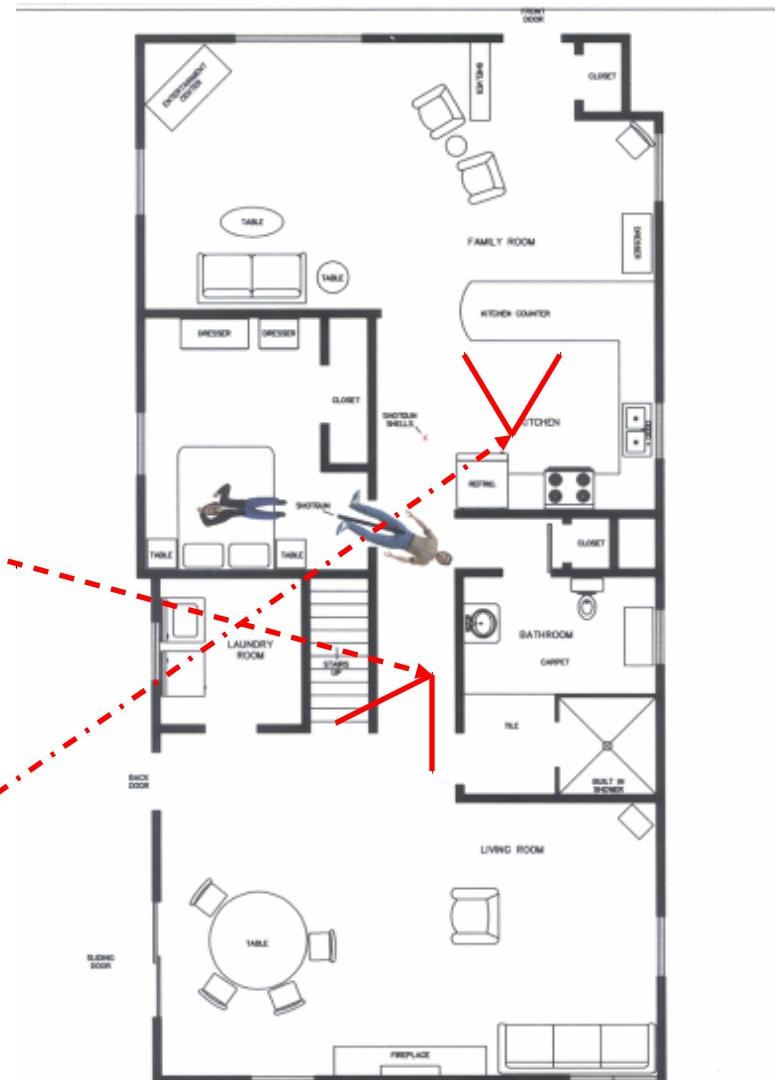
1. Photos that are critical to the investigation can be rendered irrelevant if the right documentation is missing or incomplete.
2. Most importantly, photos must be taken in context, which requires thinking critically about WHAT needs documented in order to present the evidence fairly and objectively.

A Picture is Worth a 1000 Words.



Scene Diagramming & Photography

- Diagram provides context for photographs.
- Photographic documentation and diagramming overlap.



Courtesy of Illinois State Police, Criminal Scene Investigations Unit

IPS CSI

**The Illinois State Police
Criminal Scene Investigations
team are here to assist if you
need them.**

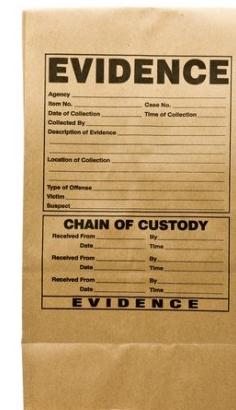
1-800-892-4095

Proper Labeling of

- The name of the **Photos**
- The SACWIS case name and the SCR number
- The date and time the photograph was taken
- The place where the photograph was taken
- The name(s) of all persons present when the photograph was taken.

Chain of Custody

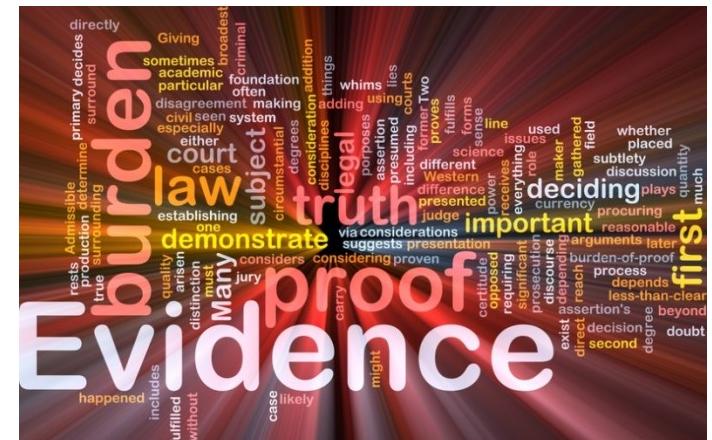
Chain of custody is just a series of events in sequence, which account for the actions of a person during a particular period of time or the location of a piece of evidence during a specified time period. Forensic photographs taken at the scene of an investigation, of victims, injuries and marks are examples of evidence that belong to the chain. They may be presented as evidence in court in criminal cases, and also in child abuse or neglect adjudications.



Chain of Custody

Establishing a clear chain of custody is crucial.

When evidence can be used in court to convict persons of crimes, it must be handled in a scrupulously careful manner to avoid even the appearance of bias, tampering or impropriety.



Chain of Custody

Child Protection Specialists may be the first to discover evidence which needs documentation – such as a mark on a child's arm.

From the moment the investigator takes that photograph, it is part of the investigative and/or legal process moving forward.

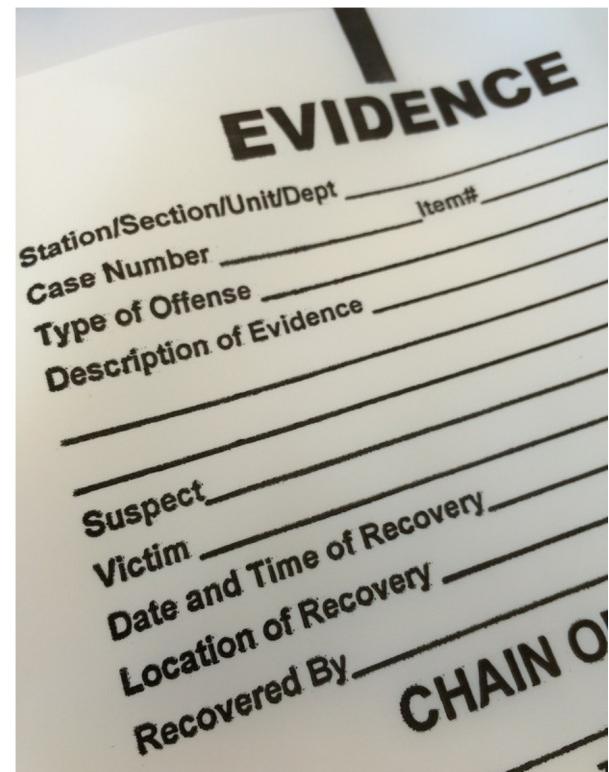
Every picture taken should be treated as if it might be used in court.



Chain of Custody

Barriers to Effective Evidence

- 1. Ineffective camera equipment**
- 2. Insufficient methods of photographing the victim, the scene or the victim's injuries.**
- 3. Misinformation regarding the photographs of the case.**
- 4. Mistaking of child abuse information, including**



Scene Photography

What kind of photographs will be taken at a scene?

- Overall Photographs
- Midrange Photographs
- Close-up Photographs

Scene Photography

Overall Photograph

- These photographs document the entire crime scene.
- Photographs will document the relationship of the scene to its surrounding environment (e.g., where a house is located on a street).
- Overall photographs will be taken from various points of view surrounding the scene.
- There is no exact minimum or maximum number of overall photographs that need to be taken.
- Be sure to completely document the entire scene.

Scene Photography

Midrange Photograph

- These photographs document specific areas within the crime scene.
- Photographs will document the relationship of the scene to items within the scene (e.g., where the lamp is the child allegedly tripped over).
- Midrange photographs will be taken from various points of view surrounding the scene.
- All significant items of evidence at the scene must be included in mid-range photographs to illustrate the context of the item of evidence within the scene.

Scene Photography

Close-up Photograph

- These photographs document specific items within a scene.
- Photographs will document the condition of a certain item of evidence at the scene (e.g., open medication within reach of a child).
- Close-up photographs will document the specific item from various points of view.
- At least two close-up photographs should be taken of the specific items within the scene.

Quality Challenge

Take Better Pictures



Tell the Story
in Context



Quality Challenge

Think critically about what to include.

Do you really need 5 shots of that moldy refrigerator, but only one of the bruise on the 2 year olds face?



What Pictures would you take?

3-1/2 year old child

Preschool called hotline

Had black eye

Mom said he hit eye against metal frame
of bed when she called his name

4 days earlier, had bruise on cheek

Mom said he bruised cheek when he fell
out of bed



Neglect Allegations and Photos

1. 60% of cases reported to the SCR are regarding neglect.
2. Think about what you are trying to document and then decide what to take a picture of.
3. What types of photos would you take for inculpatory evidence? How about exculpatory?

Inadequate Shelter

Lack of shelter which is safe and which protects the child(ren) from the elements



Inadequate Food

Lack of food adequate to sustain normal functioning.



Environmental Neglect

The child's person, clothing or living conditions are unsanitary to the point the child's health may be impaired. This may include infestations of rodents, spiders, insects, snakes, etc., human or animal feces, rotten or spoiled food or rotten or spoiled garbage that the child can reach.



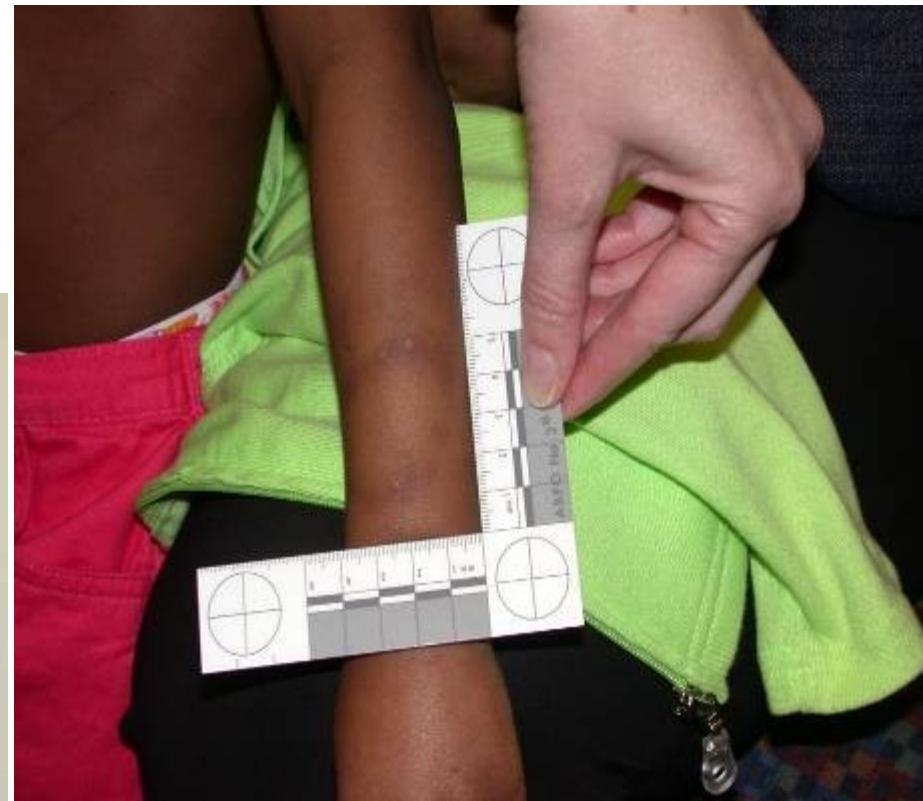


The table below tells you the risk to the body from continued exposure to the excessive heat.

Category	Classification	Heat Index/Apparent Temperature (°F)	General Affect on People in High Risk Groups
I	Extremely Hot	130°F or Higher	Heat/Sunstroke HIGHLY LIKELY with continued exposure
II	Very Hot	105°F - 130°F	Sunstroke, heat cramps, or heat exhaustion LIKELY , and heatstroke POSSIBLE with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity
III	Hot	90°F - 105°F	Sunstroke, heat cramps, or heat exhaustion POSSIBLE with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity
IV	Very Warm	80°F - 90°F	Fatigue POSSIBLE with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity

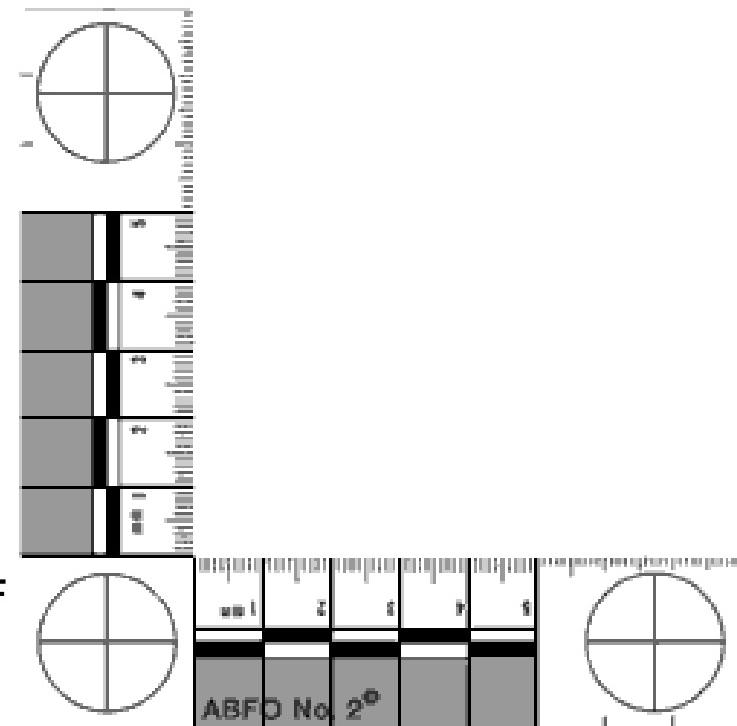
Quality Challenge

Measuring Injuries



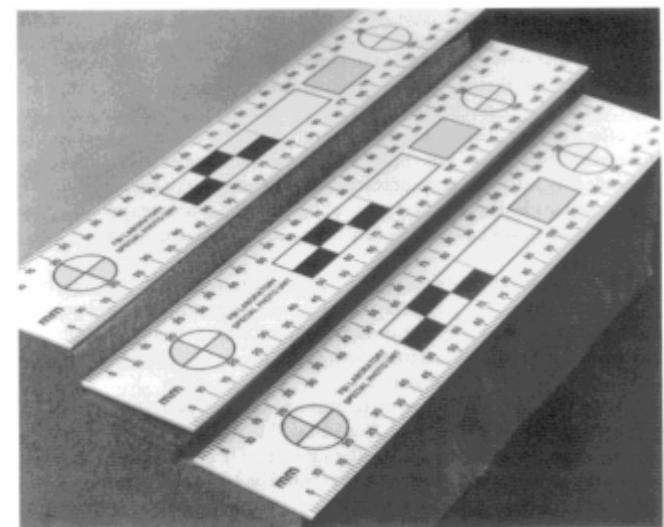
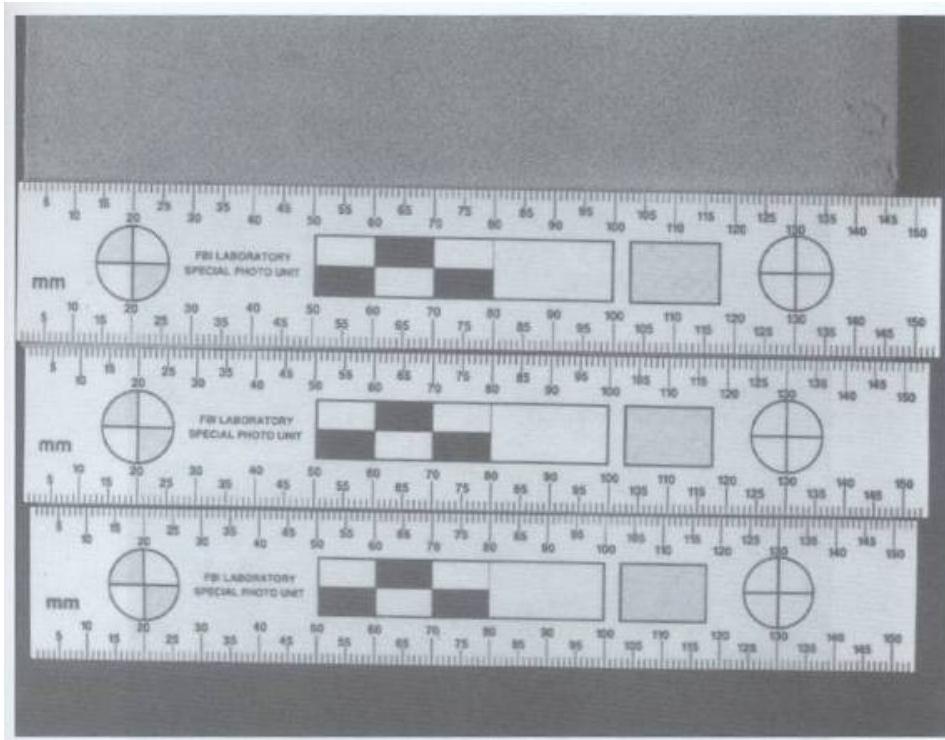
Use of Scale

- Always take a wound photograph both with and without a scale.
- Try to keep your scale on the same level as the details being photographed.
- Use of ABFO (American Board of Forensic Odontology) recommended.
- Label scale with identifiers (case number, wound number, etc.)



Courtesy of Illinois State Police, Criminal Scene Investigations Unit

Use of Scale



Courtesy of Illinois State Police, Criminal Scene Investigations Unit

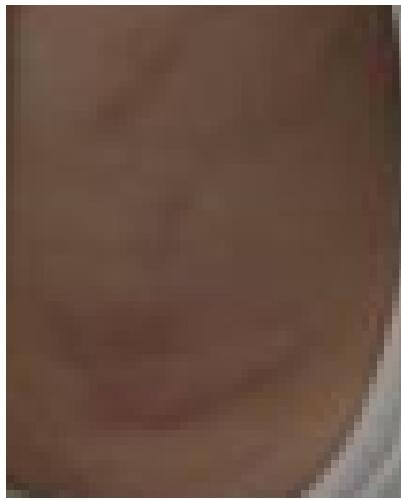
Quality Challenge

First photograph the child's full body with their face. (Overall photograph)

Photograph the injury with an anatomic landmark. The inclusion of an elbow, knee, belly button, or other body part identifies the location of the wound.
(Mid range photograph)

Include two pictures of each wound or other injury —one that identifies a landmark and one that provides a close-up (fills the film frame) of the wound.



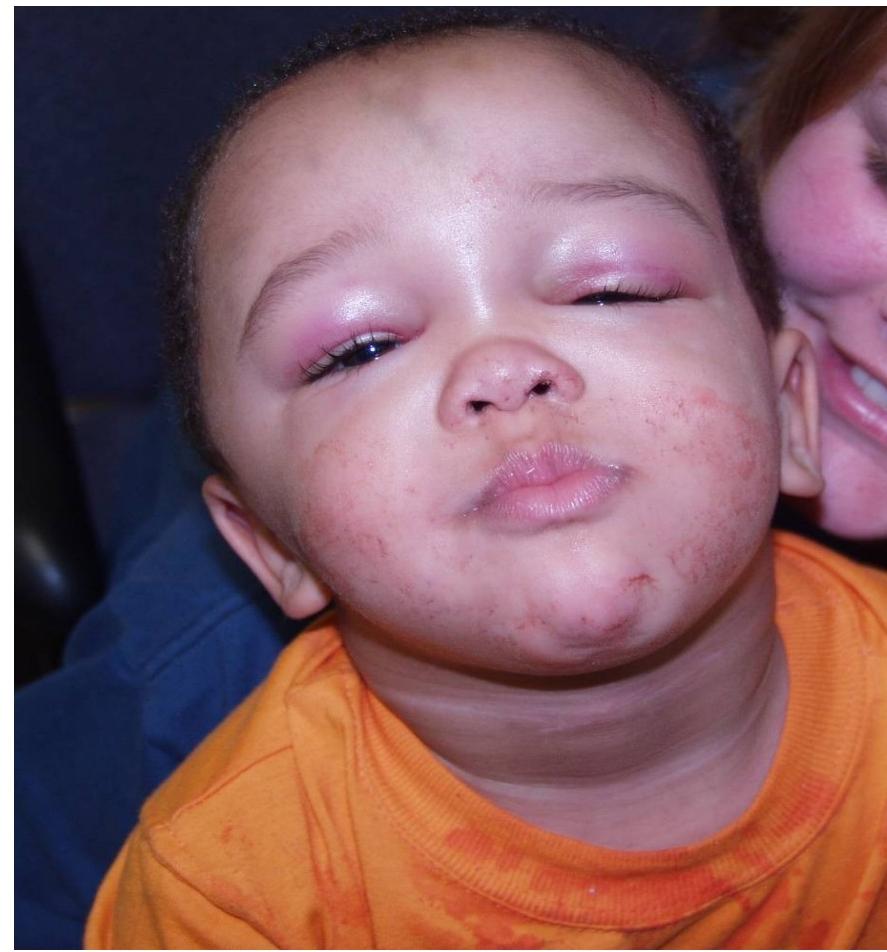






Quality Challenge

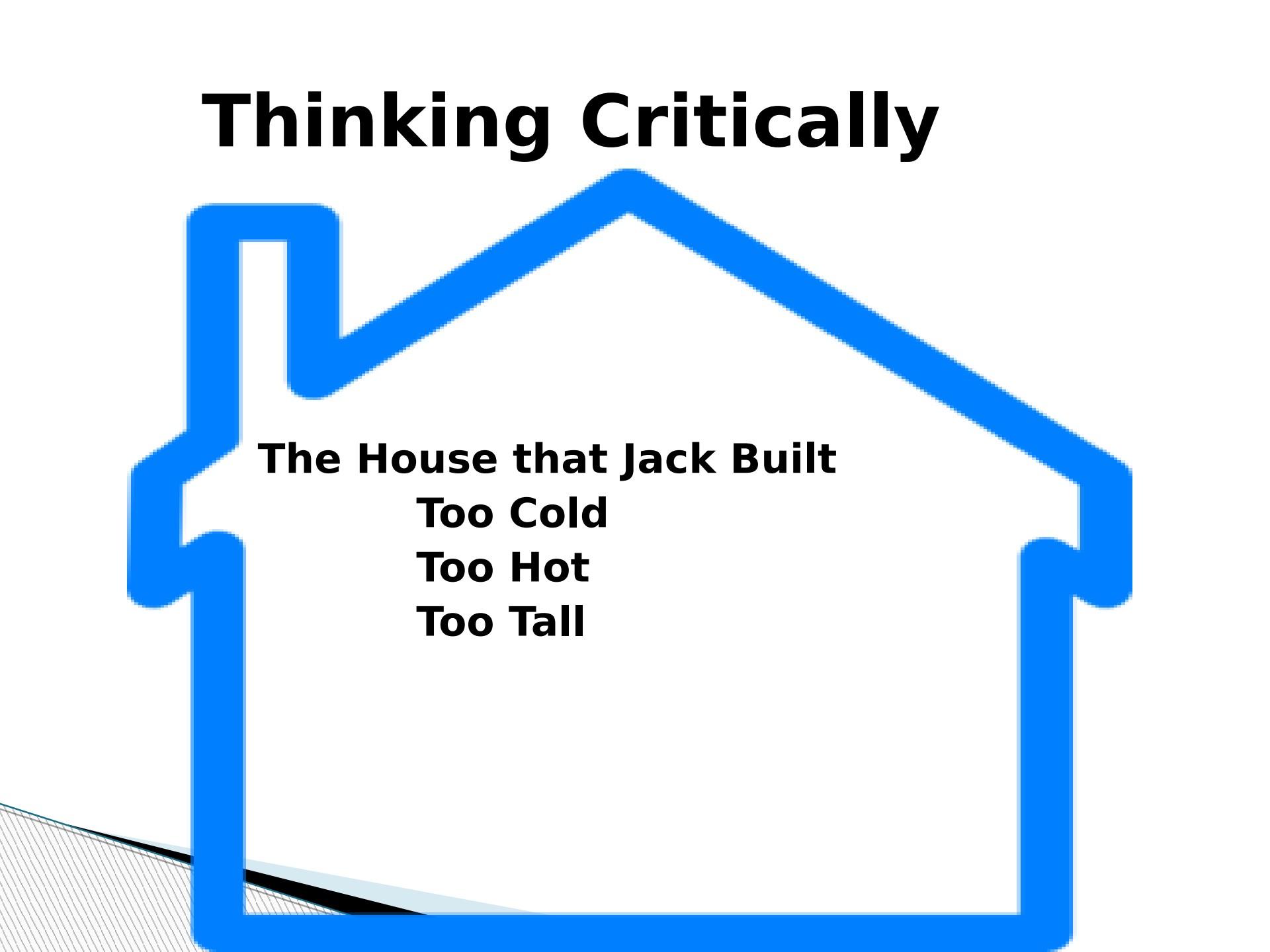
1. Position the camera so that the film surface or plane is parallel to or directly facing the injury.
2. Vary the perspective of the picture by taking various shots from different angles and distances. This is particularly important since the flash may produce unpredictable reflections.
3. Darker complexions can cause flash reflections and loss of definition.
4. If unsure about the quality of the exposures, take one with flash and one without, and check the work to see if the lighter or darker exposure shows more detail.



Policy and Procedure

1. Name at least three allegations that require specific photographs be taken and placed in the investigation file?
2. What policy (if any) outlines when, where and how often wards need to be photographed, and how those pictures are to be digitally stored?
3. What responsibility does DCFS have(if any) to ensure photos of children and youth in post-adoption services are updated annually?

Thinking Critically



The House that Jack Built

Too Cold

Too Hot

Too Tall

Uploading into SACWIS

Investigations

Ward Photos in Case Maintenance

Documentation

Identification Procedures for Children in Placement

1. The photo shall be a frontal view of the child's face, neck and shoulders with plain or solid background.
2. No other people, animals or objects should be in the photo.
3. The photo should be taken indoors and a flash should be used.
4. Digital camera must have a minimum of 5 mega-pixels and be saved in jpeg format.

Identification Procedures for Children in Placement

Initial Photographs

1. The child protective specialist shall take 1 photograph of the child as the initial identification photograph.
2. For children where there was no custody taken but they become DCFS legal responsibility the caseworker shall take the initial photograph of the child.
3. Photographs following DCFS guidelines also need to be taken of wards placed out of state.

Technical Supports



CAMERA Handbook

OITS Help Desk

Resource Links

Illinois State Police

Questions?

